



MARCH/APRIL 2006

# The Island Eagle

The Official Newsletter of the American Citizen Services Unit, U.S. Embassy Nassau

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## SECRETARY RICE ATTENDS CARICOM MEETING

U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice attended the CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting held in Nassau on March 21-22. The focus of the Secretary's visit was to promote cooperation in the region. Secretary Rice also met with Bahamian Prime Minister Christie to discuss US-Bahamas relations. Secretary Rice discussed US

engagement with CARICOM regarding a number of issues. At the top of the list was economic growth and promoting democracy by reengaging Haiti.

For information on the visit, log onto:

[nassau.usembassy.gov](http://nassau.usembassy.gov).



## TEN THINGS TO GET YOUR ABSENTEE VOTE COUNTED

1. Start by contacting your Embassy Voting Officer for help in absentee registration and voting.
2. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for information on the absentee registration and voting practices.
3. Ensure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or on-line versions of the FPCA.
4. Make sure your local

- election official has your current mailing address.
5. Sign and date all election materials.
6. Fulfill your state's witness or notary requirements (if required).
7. Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.
8. Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner - not later than September
9. **VOTE** - Mail your ballot not later than October 15th of the election year.

10. Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your State absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

For individual state election information, go to:

<http://www.fvap.gov/links/statelinks.html>

## HEADS UP!

Passport services will be available in Providenciales, TCI on May 23 and 24. Space is limited so email [ACSN@state.gov](mailto:ACSN@state.gov) to request an appointment.

### NEED TO CONTACT US?

**E-Mail:**  
[ACSN@state.gov](mailto:ACSN@state.gov)

**On the Web:**  
Embassy: [nassau.usembassy.gov](http://nassau.usembassy.gov)  
Department of State: [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

Voting Issues: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Ambassador Rood continued his reading program initiative to promote literacy in the schools during his visit to the Amy Roberts All Age School in New Plymouth, Abaco. The Ambassador read to the students his favorite book about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and invited students to assist him in reading. Also, to encourage reading the Ambassador donated a box of books to the school.

# NEW INTERNET-BASED WARDEN REGISTRATION

The Bureau of Consular Affairs is dedicated to protecting the interests of American citizens abroad. We continue to work to improve the services provided to U.S. citizens traveling or residing in other countries. Our website has been redesigned with a new look, enhanced features, and is more user-friendly. In addition to the redesign and improved organizational structure of the website itself, the Bureau of Consular Affairs is introducing the Internet-Based Registration System (IBRS).

We have long encouraged U.S. citizens abroad to register with a U.S. embassy or consulate to ensure that we can provide them with the most current information pertaining to their personal safety and security. The Internet Based Registration System will enable U.S. citizens to register themselves and members of their household, multiple destinations, and their emergency contact information via the Internet. Registering with the system will continue to enable the Department of State to provide to the traveler regularly updated Warden information from the U.S. embassies and consulates and other information customized to the individual's travel agenda and itinerary.

All U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad will have the ability to register under three separate registration categories: **short-term, long-term and organizational**.


- Short-term registration is for those travelers who will be on temporary visits to a country or countries. Long-term registration is for those travelers who are resident in foreign country or persons making extended trips to a country or countries.
- Long-term registrants will be enrolled in the applicable U.S. embassies and consulates Warden systems, which allow us to reach you in case of emergency.
- Organizational registration is for groups, such as those in the travel and business industries that wish to receive updated consular information when it becomes available.

The Department of State overseas embassies and consulates request this information only to inform and assist Americans traveling or residing in foreign countries. All personal information received by our overseas embassies and consulates pursuant to the registration process, whether in person or otherwise, is safeguarded against unauthorized disclosure by the Privacy Act of 1974. The personal information obtained in the registration process is not used to track the movements of individual American citizens.

To register or for more information, please visit <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>.


## MARCH

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

 American Holiday (Embassy Closed)

## APRIL

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23/30	24/	25	26	27	28	29

 Bahamian Holiday (Embassy Closed)

Know an American in The Bahamas or Turks and Caicos not getting the newsletter? Tell them to e-mail us at [ACSN@state.gov](mailto:ACSN@state.gov) with their name and address. We also recommend that all Americans overseas register at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) in case of emergency.